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INFORMATION ON AGRICULTURAL MACHINE AND TOOL PRODUCTION IN POLAND

[Comment: The following information on production of agricultural machinery and tools in Poland was extracted from a pictorial book entitled *Mechanicznie czy ręcznie* (Mechanically or Manually). Published in Warsaw, probably in 1954. The book is apparently intended to propagandize the advantages of collectivization and mechanization.

In 1945, Polish industry took over about 30 plants producing agricultural machinery and tools. Most of the plants had been seriously damaged, including the "Unia" plant in Grudziadz and the Slupsk factory. Despite production difficulties, such as the shortage of production equipment, the first postwar production of farm machines began to leave the plants in Plock, Grudziadz, Kutno, and Kunowo in February 1945. That year, six agricultural machinery and tool plants were put into operation.

During period of the Three-Year Plan, the designs of farm machines were standardized and the plants were geared to specified production. The tasks of farm-machine production under the Three-Year Plan were fulfilled 7 months ahead of schedule, and the value of 1949 production at fixed prices was 2.2 times that of 1938. In this period, the first Polish machines and tools, such as tractor plows, cultivators, and 3-meter-wide drills, began to appear in the rural areas. On 30 April 1947, the first tractors left the "Ursus" plant.

The Six-Year Plan called for annual production of farm machinery and tools to increase to five times that of 1949. Construction of new factories was started, and a number of plants that were making equipment for other branches of the economy were shifted to the farm machinery and tool industry. One of the large industrial projects of the Six-Year Plan was the construction of the harvest-machine factory in Staroleka. When it reaches production capacity in 1955, the Staroleka factory will furnish 30 percent of the total production of Polish farm machines, including grain combines, tractor binders, and improved steel threshers. Sixty percent of the farm machines and tools scheduled for delivery in 1955 to the rural areas will consist of models and types produced for the first time in Poland.

The Kutno plant is now producing manure spreaders, and the "Pionier" plant in Strzelce Opolskie is making tractor-drawn potato diggers and manure spreaders. The "Unia" plant is manufacturing lightweight, tractor-drawn harrows and hoes for beet sowing, tools for weeding, digging, and ridge-plowing, lime and manure spreaders, and three-furrow mounted tractor plows. The new drill plant in Brzeg produces disk-type fertilizer drills and grass drills. The Slupsk plant is manufacturing weeders and mounted ridge plows that are operated hydraulically. Series production of grain combines started in 1954.

The industry's tasks for 1954 and 1955, which were established in 1950, were revised owing to the development of agriculture. In 1955, for example, the production of "Ursus" tractors will be 8,000 units [in terms of 15-horsepower units]. At least 1,000 KD-35 crawler tractors, about 800 grain combines, and 5,000 tractor sheaf-binders will also be produced in 1955. This means that, in 1955, every point in Poland will receive, on the average, about 20 rubber-wheel tractors, 3 crawler tractors, over two grain combines, and about 20 tractor sheaf-binders.

The Harvest Machine Factory in Plock will produce 800 grain combines in 1955, and 1,500 in 1956. In the period 1954-1955, the industry will begin series production of hemp extractors, manure spreaders and loaders, mechanically powered washing apparatus, fodder mixer-crushers, and portable steam tanks. Preparations are in progress for the series production of 4-meter tractor-drawn grain drills, combination drills for grain and granulated fertilizers, potato seeders for the

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square-nest system, and potato combines. In addition to the production of new models, the industry will expand its product assortment and will improve the quality of its products during this period.

Mechanization of farm operations has increased significantly in Poland. In such wojewodztwos as Poznan, Bydgoszcz, Wroclaw, Gdansk, and Opole, the sowing operation is almost 100-percent mechanized. In most of the wojewodztwos, the mechanization of threshing, grain processing, etc. has increased several score times over that of 1939. In 1946, machinery assistance was organized for the small and medium farm holdings. In 1950, about 42 percent of all individual farms benefited from the assistance given by the SOM [Cooperative MTS]. In 1951, the GOM [Gmina MTS] replaced the SOM. The state MTS machines play a great role in the mechanization of cooperative farming. In 1953, about 80 percent of the plowing cooperatives was done by tractors. More so than in producer cooperatives, farm operations on state farms are almost 100-percent mechanized.

In 1953, delivery of agricultural machines and tools for the entire agricultural industry increased to 2.5 times that of 1949. To assure a further mechanization of agriculture it will be necessary to increase the supply of farm machines and tools. In 1955, production of farm machinery and tools should increase to more than double that of 1953. The supply of drills, ought to increase by about 50 percent; potato seeders and potato diggers, to over 2.5 times that of 1953; and beet pullers, to 4 times that of 1953.

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